

People v Portela

2021 NY Slip Op 33986(U)

September 16, 2021

Supreme Court, Westchester County

Docket Number: Ind. No. 20-00188-01

Judge: Robert A. Neary

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This opinion is uncorrected and not selected for official publication.

**FILED
AND
ENTERED
ON 9-16-2021
WESTCHESTER
COUNTY CLERK**

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

-----X
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

- against -

DECISION AND ORDER

WILLIAM PORTELA,

Ind. No. 20-00188-01

Defendant.

-----X

NEARY, J.

The defendant, William Portela, has been charged with the crimes of Assault in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree. The defendant has made an omnibus motion which consists of a Notice of Motion and an Affirmation and Memorandum of Law in Support thereof. In response, the People have filed an Affirmation in Opposition together with a Memorandum of Law. Having read all of the submitted papers and reviewed the court file, this Court makes the following determination.

FILED ^R

SEP 16 2021

TIMOTHY C. IDONI
COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

A. MOTION TO INSPECT THE GRAND JURY MINUTES AND DISMISS THE INDICTMENT FOR INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE AS EVIDENCE BEFORE THE GRAND JURY WAS LEGALLY INSUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT THE OFFENSE CHARGED

The defendant's motion to inspect the Grand Jury minutes is granted. Upon an *in camera* inspection of the Grand Jury minutes by Court, the motion to dismiss the indictment or reduce a charged offense in the indictment is denied.

The Court has reviewed the minutes of the proceeding before the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury was properly instructed (see *People v. Calbud*, 49 NY2d 389, 426 NYS2d 389, 402 NE2d 1140 and *People v. Valles*, 62 NY2d 36, 476 NYS2d 50, 464 NE2d 418) and the evidence presented, if accepted as true would be legally sufficient to establish every element of the offenses charged. [See CPL §210.30(2)]. In addition, the minutes reveal that a quorum of the grand jurors was present during the presentation of evidence and at the time the district attorney instructed the Grand Jury on the law, and that it was instructed that only those grand jurors who had heard all the evidence could participate in voting on the matter.

The Court does not find that the release of the Grand Jury minutes or certain portions thereof to the parties was necessary to assist the Court in making this determination.

B. MOTION FOR A BILL OF PARTICULARS IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 200.95 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW

This motion is denied. The Bill of Particulars set forth in the Consent Discovery Order provided to the defendant has adequately informed the defendant of the substance of his alleged conduct and in all respects complies with CPL §200.95.

C. MOTION FOR DISCOVERY AND INSPECTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH CPL ARTICLE 245

The defendant's motion for discovery is granted to the extent provided for in Criminal Procedure Law Article 245. If any items set forth in CPL Article 245 have not been provided to the defendant pursuant to the Consent Discovery Order in the instant matter, said items are to be provided forthwith.

The People recognize their continuing duty to disclose exculpatory material at the earliest possible date. [See *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 US 83, 83 S Ct. 1194, 10 LE2d 215 and *Giglio v. United States*, 405 US 150, 92 S Ct. 763, 31 LE2d 104]. If the People are or become aware of any material which is arguably exculpatory, but they are not willing to consent to its disclosure, they are directed to disclose such material to the Court for its *in camera* inspection and determination as to whether such will be disclosed to the defendant.

To any further extent, the application is denied as seeking material or information beyond the scope of discovery. [See *People v. Colavito*, 87 NY2d 423, 639 NYS2d 996, 663 NE2d 308; *Matter of Brown v. Grosso*, 285 AD2d 642, 729 NYS2d 492, *lv. denied* 97 NY2d 605, 737 NYS2d 52, 762 NE2d 930; *Matter of Brown v. Appelman*, 241 AD2d 279, 672 NYS2d 373; *Matter of Catterson v. Jones*, 229 AD2d 435, 644 NYS2d 573; *Matter of Catterson v. Rohl*, 202 AD2d 420, 608 NYS2d 696, *lv. denied* 83 NY2d 755, 613 NYS2d 127, 241 NE2d 279].

D. MOTION TO SUPPRESS THE NOTICED IDENTIFICATIONS AND TESTIMONIAL EVIDENCE THE PEOPLE SEEK TO INTRODUCE AT TRIAL

This motion is granted to the limited extent of conducting a hearing prior to trial to determine whether or not the noticed identifications are unduly suggestive. [See *United States*

v. Wade, 388 US 218, 87 S Ct. 1926, 18 LE2d 1149]. Specifically, the Court shall determine whether the identifications were so improperly suggestive as to taint any in-court identification. In the event the identifications are found to be unduly suggestive, the Court shall then go on to consider whether the People have proven by clear and convincing evidence that an independent source exists for such witness' proposed in-court identification.

E. MOTION FOR A SANDOVAL HEARING TO DETERMINE THE SCOPE OF THE CROSS-EXAMINATION OF THE DEFENDANT CONCERNING ANY PRIOR CONVICTIONS OR PROOF OF THE COMMISSION OF SPECIFIC CRIMINAL, VICIOUS OR IMMORAL ACTS AND VENTIMIGLIA HEARING TO DETERMINE THE ADMISSIBILITY OF ANY SO-CALLED UNCHARGED CRIMES OR PRIOR SIMILAR ACTS THE PEOPLE INTEND TO INTRODUCE AT TRIAL

Immediately prior to commencement of jury selection, the prosecutor shall, upon request of the defendant, notify the defendant of any prior criminal act which the People seek to use in the cross-examination of the defendant as well as all specific instances of the defendant's prior uncharged criminal, vicious or immoral conduct of which the prosecutor has knowledge and which the prosecutor intends to use at trial for the purposes of impeaching the credibility of the defendant. Thereafter, upon the defendant's request, the trial court shall conduct a *Sandoval* and/or *Ventimiglia* hearing prior to the commencement of trial. [See *People v. Sandoval*, 34 NY2d 371 (1974); *People v. Ventimiglia*, 52 NY2d 350 (1981); *People v. Molineux*, 168 NY 264 (1901)].

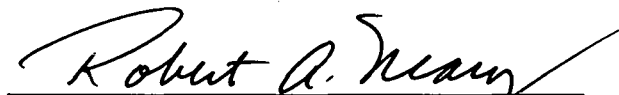
F. MOTION FOR RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

Upon a proper showing, the Court will entertain appropriate additional motions based upon grounds of which the defendant could not, with due diligence, have been previously aware, or which, for other good cause, could not reasonably have been raised in this motion.

[See CPL §255.20(3)].

This constitutes the opinion, decision and order of this Court.

Dated: White Plains, New York
September 16, 2021



ROBERT A. NEARY
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Craig Ascher
Assistant District Attorney
Westchester County
Office of the District Attorney
Richard J. Daronco Courthouse
111 Martin Luther King Blvd.
White Plains, New York 10601

Jeffrey P. Chartier, Esq.
Attorney for Defendant
2027 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, New York 10461